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BISHOP MARTIN RETIRES FROM MINISTRY STAFF

GREENWICH, Conn. -- The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church honored the Rt. Rev. Richard B. Martin for his "gentleness with persons and firmness with principles" on the occasion of his retirement as Executive for Education for Mission and Ministry on the Episcopal Church Center staff. He retires effective June 30.

Bishop Martin has been in his current post since 1977. This section of the Church Center staff includes a general group of program and staff services such as evangelism, lay ministry, youth and college ministry, Christian education, theological education, church deployment, and the ministry council.

Presiding Bishop John M. Allin appointed Bishop Martin to the Episcopal Church Center staff in 1974 as the Executive for Ministries, a section which includes ministries with ethnic minority persons and various programs which deal with hunger, injustice and poverty. Three years later he moved to his present post, formerly called Program.

At a dinner during the Executive Council meeting at Seabury House here, June 4-6, Bishop Martin was presented a crystal decanter and a stained glass seal of the Presiding Bishop. Mrs. Martin was unable to be present. The Council also approved a resolution of appreciation by a standing ovation.

Born in 1913 in Peak, S.C., Bishop Martin received degrees from Allen University, Columbia, S.C., and Bishop Payne Divinity School. He also studied at several seminaries.

For 19 years he was rector of Grace Church, Norfolk, Va. For 12 years during his service there he was also Archdeacon of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

In 1963 he became rector of St. Phillip's Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., and two years later he was appointed archdeacon of Brooklyn in the Diocese of Long Island. He was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Long Island in 1967 and he held that post until 1974.

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